UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26624**
2 November 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to write to you in connection with the letter dated 10 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, addressed to you (S/26561).

In that letter, the representative of Croatia put forward a series of unfounded and erroneous allegations.

He stated, inter alia, that the "Serbian insurgents in the United Nations protected areas (UNPAs)" ... "are still opposing the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions" ... and ... "the Vance plan" ... and that they "... remain a major threat to the security of the UNPROFOR forces".

Firstly, the Krajina Serbs are not insurgents. This is evident from the Vance plan, whose main goal is to protect the civilian population of Krajina pending a negotiated settlement among the parties to the conflict. They represent a part of a people that has lived in the area for centuries, whose vital interest is to protect itself from acts of genocide to which it has been exposed several times in recent history.

Secondly, the Krajina Serbs are not opposed to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the Vance plan. What they cannot accept, however, are certain parts of some Security Council resolutions that prejudge the political solution of Krajina's status, which is in direct contravention of the Vance plan. They have always expressed their readiness to settle the outstanding issues through negotiations on the basis of the Vance plan and the relevant Security Council resolutions. Ever since the signing of the Vance plan, it was Croatia that carried out ruthless attacks on the UNPAs, resulting in the killing of more than 300 Serbian civilians. Croatia even went as far as to openly attack the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) deployed in the UNPAs.

** Second reissue for technical reasons.

The unscrupulous conduct of Croatia and its flagrant and unpunished violation of the Security Council resolutions and other relevant documents of the United Nations, as well as of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, have exceeded all bounds of tolerance. According to Security Council resolutions 802 (1993) and 847 (1993), Croatia was obliged to withdraw its armed forces to the positions held before its aggression of 22 January 1993. Despite repeated requests by the Security Council, Croatia has simply ignored with impunity the decisions of this Council. In a clear attempt at deriding the authority of the Security Council, the Croatian forces launched a new attack on the UNPAs on 9 September 1993. Under the mounting pressure of the international community, Croatia finally withdrew its armed forces to the positions held before the aggression of 9 September 1993, leaving a trail of total destruction of Serbian villages. However, the Croatian army still occupies the territories seized following the aggression of 22 January 1993.

It is Croatia that opposes the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the Vance plan. Renewed aggression of the Croatian army troops against the UNPAs and Croatia's continued militarization and the amassing of its troops on the borders with the UNPAs represent a major threat not only to the Serbian civilian population but also to the security of UNPROFOR forces deployed in the area. In such circumstances, it can hardly be expected that the Serbs in the UNPAs would be in a position to disarm completely, while Croatia continues with armed attacks and openly threatens to resolve the issue by military means.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that the Republic of Croatia must cease its armed attacks against the UNPAs and recognize that a just and lasting solution can be found only in direct negotiations between the representatives of Croatia and Krajina, within the framework of the Geneva Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, on the basis of the full implementation of the Vance plan by all parties.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.